

Purpose

Under the Newborn Hearing Screening law, RSMo 191.931, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall “monitor the delivery of early intervention services to those infants identified by the newborn hearing screening program and report annually to the department of health and senior services.” Eligible infants are served by the Missouri First Steps Program under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

This report provides information related to the number of First Steps infants identified through the newborn hearing screening program during calendar year 2011.

Infants Enrolled in the First Steps Program

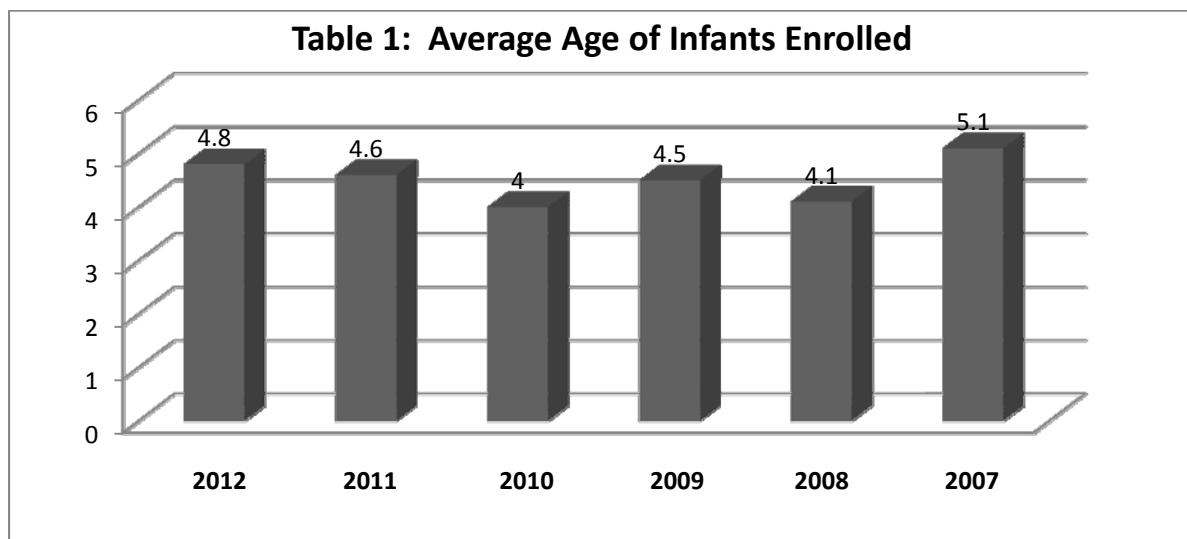
As of January 16, 2013, 118 infants born in 2011 were identified with hearing loss by the Department of Health (DHSS). It is important to note that the 118 infants included infants who received incomplete results or unknown types of loss based on what was reported to DHSS. Infants who were determined to be suffering from middle ear pathology (e.g., fluid in the middle ear from colds, ear infections) and who do not have a permanent hearing loss could be removed from the list at a later date based on updates received from audiologists.

Of the 118 infants identified by DHSS, 93 (78.8%) were found in the First Steps database. Of the 93 infants in First Steps, 73 (78.5%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 20 infants did not reach IFSP status due to ineligible for the program, withdrawal from the program or unable to locate the family.

Of the 73 infants who reached IFSP status, 69 (94.5%) were in active status at the end of 2012. Two of the 73 infants were unable to locate and two of the 73 infants passed away in 2012.

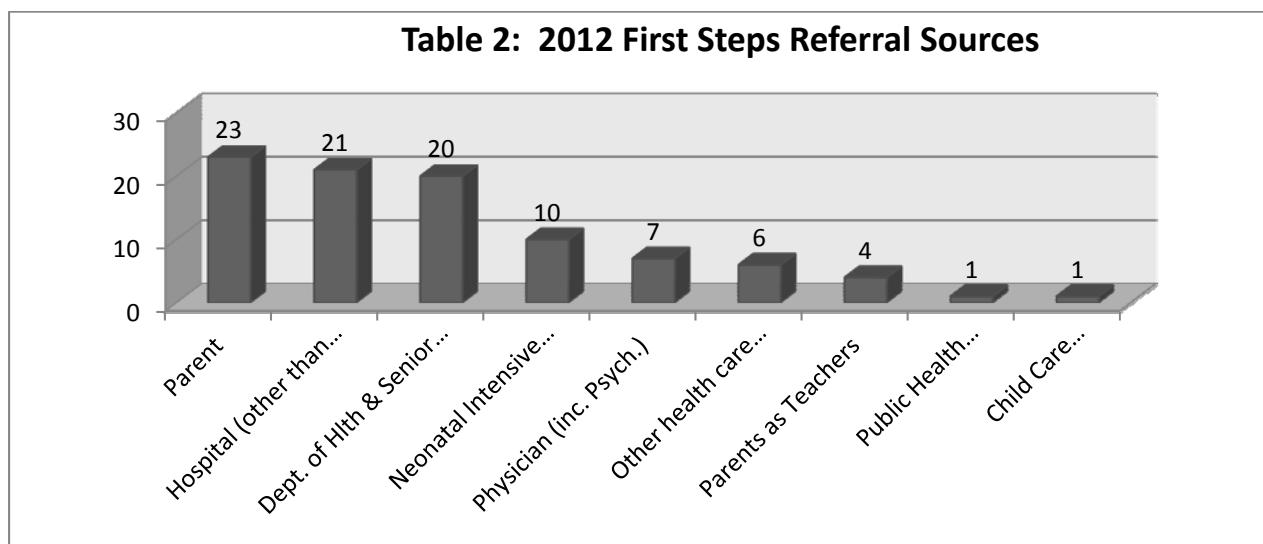
Average Age

Table 1 represents the average age of infants at the time of enrollment in First Steps. The National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) goal regarding Part C of IDEA is to have infants enrolled by six months of age. The average age for infants enrolled in First Steps in 2012 was 4.8 months, which exceeds the goal. Additionally, as shown below in Table 1, the average age has been below six months for the past five years.



Referral Sources

Table 2 represents the sources of First Steps referrals for infants with hearing loss identified by DHSS. Of the 93 infants referred to First Steps, 23 (24.7%) were made by parents.



Type of Hearing Loss

Table 3 represents the type of hearing loss, and related First Steps referral and eligibility percentages, for the 118 infants identified by DHSS. Of the 118 infants, 85 (72%) were found to have a sensorineural hearing loss. Of the 85 infants with sensorineural hearing loss, 69 (81.2%) were referred to First Steps and 55 (79.7%) reached IFSP.

Table 3: Type of Hearing Loss and First Steps Status

Type of Loss	Infants Identified by NHS in 2011	Referred to FS	Reached IFSP	Eligibility%
Sensorineural	85	69	55	79.7%
Auditory Neuropathy	10	8	7	87.5%
Mixed	7	5	4	80.0%
Permanent Conductive	5	3	2	66.7%
Incomplete Testing and/or Unknown Type*	11	8	5	62.5%
Total	118	93	73	78.5%

*In 2011, the number of infants listed as “Incomplete Testing and/or Unknown Type” decreased by 30% from the prior year, which is a good indication infants received more accurate diagnosis at an earlier age.

Service Authorizations

Table 4 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 69 infants identified by DHSS who were enrolled in the First Steps program. At the end of calendar year 2012, there were a total of 263 active authorizations for the 69 infants with hearing loss. The top three categories of First Steps service authorizations were:

- 1) 88 (33.4%) authorizations for Special Instruction;
- 2) 73 (27.8%) authorizations for Audiology; and
- 3) 46 (17.5%) authorizations for Speech Language Pathology.

Table 4: 2012 First Steps Authorizations

	AT Service	Consultation/ Facilitation with Others	Direct Child Service	Evaluation/ Assessment	Family Education/ Training/Suppor t	OAE limited: Evoked otoacoustic	Tympanometry (impedance testin	Visual Reinforcement Audiometr	Grand Total	Percentage
Audiology	10	7	19	13		7	9	8	73	27.8%
Occupational Therapy	1	9	16						26	9.9%
Physical Therapy		11	19						30	11.4%
Special Instruction		30	57		1				88	33.4%
Speech Language Pathology		10	35		1				46	17.5%
Grand Total	11	67	146	13	2	7	9	8	263	100.0%

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